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Middle East Situation Report #30  
(as of 1100 EST, 6 February 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the security situation in the capital is deteriorating rapidly.

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- Heavy fighting all around the British Embassy--where our Embassy is colocated--has prompted our Embassy personnel to declare a Condition 1 alert. Fighting has spread to the American University of Beirut campus, the hotel district, the Cadmus and Riviera Hotels, and the Bain Militaire.
- The government-controlled radio has announced the immediate imposition until further notice of a 24 hour curfew throughout the greater Beirut area. The announcement warned that violators will be shot on sight.
- Druze artillerymen in the mountains continue to shell Beirut in support of Amal ground operations there.
- The Army appears to be attempting to mount a counter-offensive to seal off West Beirut from the southern suburbs. Reinforcements are reportedly being brought in from the Sarba barracks north of the city. [REDACTED]

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According to press reports, Amal leader Nabih Barri has now joined Druze leader Walid Junblatt in rejecting the government's proposal yesterday for negotiations and is calling for President Gemayel's resignation.

-- [REDACTED]

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PERSIAN GULF

Iran has announced death sentences for three senior officers among the 104 military personnel who were tried on treason charges stemming from their Tudeh (Communist) Party memberships. Four have been found not guilty; 87 received sentences lenient by usual regime standards; and 10 verdicts are still under review by the Supreme Judicial Council in Tehran.

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Syrians officials have told US diplomats in Damascus that an economic delegation that recently visited Tehran secured additional time for Damascus to pay for Iranian-supplied oil.

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-- Problems in bilateral economic relations have persisted because of Syria's precarious financial condition but have had little effect so far on political ties.

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IRAN-IRAQ WAR

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Iraq has added four Iranian cities--Bandar-e Khomeini, Masjed-e Suleiman, Behbahan, and Ramhormoz--to the list of targets it has publicly threatened to shell. The Iranian Cabinet met yesterday to review this public threat, and Prime Minister Musavi-Khamenei has said that Tehran would respond to any such Iraqi attack by strikes on Iraqi industries.

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Baghdad is looking for an excuse to strike at Kharg Island and the huge, Japanese-assisted petrochemical complex under construction near Bandar-e Khomeini.

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